

Chrysler Foundation in Program to Help Feed Hungry Detroit Children

by Jim Stickford

The Chrysler Foundation has teamed up with Forgotten Harvest and the Friends of the Detroit Public Library Foundation in a program that helps feed hungry minds and hungry bodies.

John Owens, director of Communications for Forgotten Harvest, said the group, which works to address the community's serious need for emergency food supplies, has been working with the Chrysler Foundation and the library foundation for a little more than a year on a project to provide meals and afterschool snacks to children participating in Detroit library programs.

"The Chrysler Foundation has been working with us for a while," Owens said, "helping with things like trucking and such. I've worked with their man, Brian Glowiak."

Glowiak, vice president of the Chrysler Foundation, said he had a meeting with Patrice Merritt, director of the Friends of the Detroit Public Library Foundation, and she told him that kids participating in library programs were hungry and that this hunger

caused attention problems.

"Things clicked from there and we thought it would be great if we could get a partnership with Forgotten Harvest, the Chrysler Foundation and the library foundation," Glowiak said. "That's how all this happened."

Glowiak said the Chrysler Foundation started giving Forgotten Harvest a grant last year. The original one was for about \$25,000. Because the program over the last year proved so successful, the Chrysler Foundation increased that amount to \$74,000.

"It is difficult for children or adults, for that matter, to concentrate and learn when they are hungry," said Susan Goodell, president and CEO of Forgotten Harvest.

"Our partnership with the Detroit Public Library and The Chrysler Foundation provides an ideal opportunity to provide nourishing food to hungry children, which ideally will enhance their chances to learn and grow." For years, Forgotten Harvest has made it a top priority to target their services to children.

Once Forgotten Harvest gets

the grant money, Owens said, his group takes over and works with the library foundation to provide meals and snacks for children who are participating in library programs.

"Last year, we delivered 1,700 snacks per week," Owens said. "Next school year, we will be delivering 2,000 snacks at 20 library locations throughout the city."

Owens said the program "is just people connecting the dots."

The way the program works is that during the summer, children who participate in library pro-

grams get meals such as lunch.

Merritt said that during the school year, many of these children get meals at school, so when the school year starts, the program transitions from one that provides lunch during the day to one that provides afterschool snacks.

"This helps kids build their bodies and their minds," Owens said. "What I like about the program is that we're attracting parents and grandparents to the library to help out."

Owens said the program is

helpful because sometimes that afterschool snack will be the last thing kids in the program will have to eat for the day.

Glowiak said that what he likes about the food program is that it's connected to educational programs at the library.

"It's not like kids are just grabbing the food and running," Glowiak said. "They stay and participate in the reading programs. It's wonderful that this program has grown and the Chrysler Foundation is proud to provide funding for it."

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Shelby Lions Car Show Set for Sept. 15

by Ross Raybin

The Shelby Township Lions Club will host its 18th Annual Charity Car Show next month.

The event will take place Sept. 15 at the Packard Proving Grounds in Shelby Township.

"All proceeds will go to charity," said Randy Whiteman, chairman of the car show and past president of the Shelby Township Lions Club. "We give to a lot of projects and charities in the area."

The event will include more than 50 different car classifications for participants and more than 500 vehicles are expected to be on hand.

"It's grown from 150 vehicles our first year to over 600 at one time," said Whiteman.

"We usually average between 500 and 600."

Some of the classifications include RAT RODS, Pro-Street Truck Full Size, Kit Cars, Special Interest vehicles and many more.

Awards will be handed out for the best-of-show in each category.

First place winners will receive a Lions Club car show jacket and second and third places will receive plaques.

The show also will include more than a dozen vendors, a beer tent and concessions.

DJ "Jammin' Jerry" will provide the music for the event and a 50/50 raffle with a cash prize will be held.

For the second straight year, the event will host - from 8 a.m. to noon - an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast that will include pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, hash browns, coffee and juice.

"We started the breakfast last year and it was a huge success," said Whiteman.

Gates open at 8 a.m. and participants will be able to register their vehicles until 11:45 a.m. The cost to register a vehicle is \$20 at the door and those who pre-register will receive a free T-shirt.

Pre-registration forms can be obtained online at www.shelbylionsclub.org.

Regular admission is \$3 and children under 12 are free.

The Charity Car Show, which is the Lions Club's biggest fundraising event of the year, will run from 8 a.m. to about 6 p.m. at the Packard Proving Grounds, located between 22 and 23 Mile roads on Van Dyke in Shelby Township.

Community Choice CU Blood Drives

The Community Choice Credit Union and the American Red Cross are joining forces for the "Give Big Weekend" blood drive. The credit union's branches are hosting drives Sept. 12-13.

On Thursday, Sept. 12, between 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., the Community Choice on 7415 Chicago Road in Warren is the first location holding a drive.

On Friday, Sept. 13, three other

Community Choice locations will be seeking blood donations from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. They are the Farmington Hills branch, 31155 Northwestern Highway; the New Hudson branch; 30564 Lyon Center Drive; and the Livonia branch, 15420 Farmington Road.

To learn more about the drives and to sign up, visit the Community Choice Credit Union web site at communitychoicecu.com.

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